

GEORGIE SMILEY.

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MAY 26, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. SULLOWAY, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 10316.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 10316) granting a pension to Georgie Smiley, have examined the same and all the evidence and respectfully report:

This bill proposes to pension at \$12 per month Georgie Smiley, of Auburn, Me., the dependent daughter of George A. Smiley, late a private in Company I, Ninth New Hampshire Infantry, who served from July 8, 1862, to June 10, 1865, and was honorably discharged. The records show him to have been treated while in the service for chronic diarrhea, piles, intermittent fever, rheumatism, and debility. He died April 14, 1890.

It is not shown whether the soldier's death was due to causes originating in the service or not. The soldier's wife, mother of this claimant, was divorced January 10, 1885, hence had no title to pension. She was appointed guardian of the minor, and on January 20, 1892, filed a minor's claim for pension under the act of June 27, 1890, but that claim was rejected on the ground that the child was over 16 years of age at date of filing the claim.

Evidence filed with this committee shows that this claimant has been mentally and physically weak and incapacitated since she was 4 years of age, as a result of sickness about that time. Her mind did not develop with her years, and her physical health has never been good since that time.

I. W. Gilbert, M. D., of Litchfield, Me., in an affidavit executed May 19, 1898, says:

I have examined Georgie Smiley, aged 23 years, and find her to be weak and feeble in mind. She has not sufficient intelligence to learn the simplest kind of work, and can not earn anything toward her own maintenance; consequently she is entirely dependent for support upon her relatives and friends. I see no possible chance for any improvement in her condition during life.

J. D. Nutting, M. D., of Hallowell, Me., in an affidavit filed in the Pension Office November 9, 1895, speaking of claimant, says:

She is an imbecile and so lacking in mental capacity as to require constant care from those who have her in charge. She is supported by charity at the Industrial School for Girls at Hallowell, Me. She is totally incapacitated, both physically and mentally, for any kind of work.

The mother and guardian of the child, under date of March 25, 1898, says:

My daughter is totally mentally and physically incapable of doing anything toward her support, and her father died when she was about 16 years of age, leaving us without a dollar to help ourselves with. I took her to the industrial school at Hallowell, clothing her and paying 50 cents a week toward her board until about two years ago, when I took her away on account of her age. Since that time I have hired a lady who lives on a farm to board her at \$2.50 per week. My only means of support for myself and daughter is what I earn working in the cotton mill at Lewiston.

This claimant is plainly within the intent of the law. As she is mentally incompetent, the bill should provide for payment of the pension to the guardian when duly appointed.

The bill is reported back with the recommendation that it pass when amended as follows:

Line 5, after "dependent," insert "imbecile."

At the end of line 8 add "same to be paid to her legal guardian when appointed."

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LITCHFIELD, *May 17, 1898.*

This is to certify that I have examined Georgia A. Smiley, age 23 years, and find her to be weak and feeble in mind. She has not sufficient intelligence to learn the simplest kind of work, and can not earn anything toward her own maintenance. Consequently she is entirely dependent of support upon her relatives and friends. I see no possible chance for any improvement in her condition during life.

I. W. GILBERT, M. D.

LITCHFIELD, *May 19, 1898.*

KENNEBEC, ss:

Personally appeared the above-named I. W. Gilbert, M. D., before me, a justice of the peace, and acknowledged the above to be correct and true.

JOHN PURINTON.

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AUBURN, ME., *April 15, 1898.*

I have known Mrs. E. J. Smiley, of Auburn, in the county of Androscoggin, for the last twenty-five years, and know that she has a daughter, Georgia A. Smiley, of weak mind, so that she is not able to work or earn anything.

Mrs. Smiley is without property, receives no pension, and her daughter receives \$4 per month State aid, and nothing more, except what her mother provides for her.

CHARLES M. LANDER,  
No. 67 High street, Auburn, Me.

STATE OF MAINE, *Androscoggin, ss:*

Personally appeared before me, clerk of supreme judicial court within and for said county and State, Charles M. Lander, who subscribed the foregoing statement and made oath to the truth of the same.

I regard the affiant a credible witness.

Witness my hand and official seal this 15th day of April, A. D. 1898.

[SEAL.]

I. W. HANSON, *Clerk.*

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HALLOWELL, *April 14, 1898.*

To whom it may concern:

This is to certify that I am personally acquainted with the condition of Georgie Smiley, she having been an inmate of Maine Industrial School for Girls, of which I had charge for many years as superintendent and treasurer. She is utterly incapable of caring for herself, and her mother, widow of a deceased soldier of the late war, is not able to afford her adequate support. I trust the pension desired may be secured, and that speedily.

E. ROWELL,  
*Late Superintendent Industrial School.*

Personally appeared the above-named E. Rowell and made oath to the above statement as correct, April 14, 1898.

Before me,

GEO. A. SAFFORD, *Justice of the Peace.*

AUBURN, ME., May 16, 1898.

DEAR SIR: I will answer your questions in regard to my daughter's condition to the best of my ability.

Her trouble is both mental and physical. You ask how it was caused, and in my opinion I should say it was the result of a sickness which she had when about 4 years of age, as her mind did not develop with her years, and her physical health never has been good since that time. It has been continuous, and there has not been the slightest improvement since she was 14 years of age. She is now 23 years of age 12th of last March.

Respectfully, yours,

Mrs. ELVIRA J. SMILEY,  
292 Main street, Auburn, Me.

HON. NELSON DINGLEY, JR.

STATE OF MAINE, *Androscoggin*, ss:

Personally appeared Elvira J. Smiley, who wrote and signed the within statement, and made oath to the truth of the same.

Before me,  
[SEAL.]

I. W. HANSON,  
Clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court.

AUBURN, ME., March 25, 1898.

DEAR SIR: Yours received, and in reply would say that my daughter is totally mentally and physically incapable of doing anything toward her support, and her father died when she was about 16 years of age, leaving us without a dollar to help ourselves with. I took her to the industrial school at Hallowell, clothing her and paying 50 cents per week toward her board until two years ago, when I had to take her away on account of her age. Since that time I have hired a lady who lives on a farm to board her at \$2.50 per week. My only means of support for myself and daughter is what I earn working in the cotton mill at Lewiston, and the way business has been for five years past I have had just all I could do by working every day when there was work to do to keep out of debt. I know that I can't always hold out to work the way I am working now, and if I should be sick for any length of time I should be obliged to call on the town for assistance. Mr. Smiley's health was considerably broken down from the time he got out of the Army until he died, caused by chronic diarrhea, but he was decidedly opposed to applying for a pension as long as he could get along without it.

If there is anything you would like to know which I have not stated here, you can ask any questions you like and I will try and answer them satisfactorily.

Respectfully, yours,

Mrs. ELVIRA J. SMILEY,  
31 Academy street, Auburn, Me.

HON. NELSON DINGLEY, JR., M. C.

HON. NELSON DINGLEY, JR., M. C.

DEAR SIR: Inclosed please find affidavits as requested; also a statement of my circumstances. I have no property of any kind. My only means of support for myself and daughter is what I can earn in the mill, and \$4 per month State aid which my daughter draws from the State. My earnings in the mill amount to about \$4.50 per week, and my board to pay out of that. I hire my daughter boarded in the country, and the lady she boards with claims that, with the care, she can not board her for less than \$2.50 per week. I do not draw any pension, as I was divorced from my husband. I am not entitled to any, and there is no bill pending in my behalf. I applied for a pension for my daughter some time ago, but it was rejected on account of her age, being over 16 years of age at that time. I think I have answered all questions that you requested as correctly as I can.

Respectfully, yours,

Mrs. E. J. SMILEY,  
292 Main street, Auburn, Me.

Will send a physician's statement as soon as I can. The doctor is sick at the present, and not able to write.

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